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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/055,403	01/22/2002	Hideo Nagai	NAK1-BQ88	7193

7590

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JOSEPH W. PRICE, ESQ.
SNELL & WILMER LLP
1920 MAIN STREET
SUITE 1200
IRVINE, CA 92614-7230

EXAMINER

TRAN, TAN N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2826

DATE MAILED: 01/16/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/055,403

Applicant(s)

NAGAI ET AL.

Examiner

TAN N TRAN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Group I, claims 1-14 in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Inoguchi et al. (6,262,531).

With regard to claim 1, Inoguchi et al. discloses a plat polygonal member 11; a light emitting member which is provided on a main surface of the polygonal member 11; three sets of terminals (12a,16a), each set of terminals (12a,16a) being provided on a different side of a periphery of the polygonal member 11; and a conductor pattern which is provided to the polygonal member 11 to connect the set of terminals (12a,16a) with the light-emitting member. (Note fig. 1 of Inoguchi et al.).

With regard to claim 2, Inoguchi et al. discloses the light-emitting member has a first electrode 22a and a second electrode 26a, and emits light when power is supplied through the

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first and second electrodes (22a,26a), the set of terminals (12a,16a) includes a first terminal and second terminal, and the conductor pattern connects the first terminal to the first electrode 22a, and the second terminal to the second electrode 26a. (Note figs. 1,5 of Inoguchi et al.).

With regard to claim 3, Inoguchi et al. discloses the set of terminals (12a,16a) further includes a third terminal, the conductor pattern connects the third terminal to the second electrode, and the set of terminals (12a,16a) is provided so that the first terminal is positioned at a midpoint of the side and the second terminal and the third terminal are symmetrically positioned with respect to the first terminal. (Note fig. 1 of Inoguchi et al.).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 4-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 4-10 are allowable over the prior art of record, because none of these references disclose or can be combined to yield the claimed invention such as the light-emitting member is made up of a plurality of light-emitting elements that emit light of different colors, the plurality of light-emitting elements are set at frequent intervals on the main surface of the polygonal member, with each light-emitting element being connected in series with other light-emitting elements that emit light of the same color as the light-emitting element, the set of terminals includes a common terminal and color terminals or pairs of color terminal that correspond to the different colors, and the wiring pattern connects an electrode at one of a low-potential end and a high-potential end of each group of series-connects an electrode at the other end of each group of

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series-connected light-emitting elements to a color terminal or pair of color terminals that corresponds to the same color as the group, the set of terminals is provided so that the common terminal is positioned at a midpoint of the side and two color terminals that compose each pair of color terminals are symmetrically positioned with respect to the common terminal as recited in claim 4,5, the light-emitting member is made up of a plurality of light-emitting elements that emit light of different colors, the plurality of light-emitting elements are set at frequent intervals on the main surface of the polygonal member as recited in claim 9.

4. Claims 11-14 are allowable over the prior art of record, because none of these references disclose or can be combined to yield the claimed invention such as one side of a polygonal member of a light-emitting unit on which a set of terminals has been provided is set facing one side of a polygonal member of another light-emitting unit on which a set of terminals has been provided, and corresponding terminals on the facing sides of the two light-emitting units are electrical connected as recited in claim 11.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Tan Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-3362. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (703) 308-6601. The fax phone numbers for the

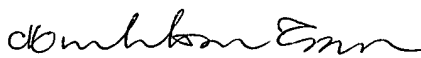
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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for after final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

TT

Jan 2003


Minh Loan Tran
Primary Examiner